

Middlesex Community College

2/22/22

Respected members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Maia Carpentino, and I am proud to claim that I am pursuing my educational goals at Middlesex Community College in Middletown, CT. My parents have tried their best to provide for me, but I am on my own to pay for my post-secondary education. This is not unique to me, and in fact, this is the case for many young Connecticut residents who had recently graduated high school. So when it came to being able to afford an education, community college was the right for me choice to make. This is especially true, considering that I am one of the first college students to take advantage of the Pledge to Advance CT (PACT) grant in the Fall of 2020. As a result of this program, I am now finishing my associate's degree this spring 2022 semester with virtually no student debt, and for that, I am eternally grateful to the combined effort of our state's government and the Board of Regents. Today I come to you to offer my admiration for the education under the Connecticut State Colleges and University's system. More specifically, I want to highlight the amazing experience I have had becoming an educated woman in one of our community colleges. Connecticut should be proud of the higher education opportunities it offers to its people. According to various media sources, we are one of the top ten most educated states in our country and amongst the top 10 states offering the best community college experiences. I wholeheartedly believe that this is due to the efforts the CSCU takes to ensure educational opportunities. Our biggest public education provider is the CSCU system, and the efficiency of our state's higher- education requires the support of our legislators. I can confidently affirm that all that will be invested into CSCU directly funds the futures of its students and subsequently the future development of an educated workforce in CT. There are no unnecessary or wasted expenses in equal education opportunities for all.

Thank you for your time.